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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
COMMISSION ON ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS FACILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Expert Meeting on Improving the Competitiveness of SMEs through Enhancing Productive Capacity: Financing Technology
Geneva, 28-30 October 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Improving the competitiveness of SMEs through enhancing productive capacity: financing technology

4. Adoption of the outcome of the Expert Meeting

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

1. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Expert Meeting has three working days available. It is therefore suggested that the first plenary meeting, on 28 October, be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2) and the introduction of item 3. Subsequent meetings will be devoted to a detailed discussion of item 3. The last plenary meeting, on the afternoon of 30 October, will be devoted to the adoption of the outcome(item 4).

3. The secretariat will prepare a tentative schedule indicating the issues to be dealt with by the meeting, which will be available on the first day.

Item 3: Improving the competitiveness of SMEs through enhancing productive capacity: financing technology

4. The UNCTAD X Plan of Action recognized that the survival and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) require the adoption of policies and programmes that improve their competitiveness. Lack of access to finance and to appropriate technologies is clearly a major handicap to developing country producers and exporters, prevents developing countries from deriving full benefits from trade. The sixth session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, held in Geneva from 18 to 21 February 2002, recommended that an Expert Meeting be held on financing technology as a means of improving the competitiveness of SMEs.[1]

5. The financing challenges faced by developing country SMEs, together with a set of innovative solutions, were explored in October 2001 by the Expert Meeting on Improving the Competitiveness of SMEs in Developing Countries: The Role of Finance, Including E-Finance, to Enhance Enterprise Development. The Expert Meeting for 2002 seeks to extend the financial innovations identified to include financing technology. In all countries, SMEs require financing in order to enhance their technological capacity and increase their R&D capability.

6. The aim of the meeting is to identify best practices in financing technology, both private and public sector initiatives, that have produced a positive impact in terms of improving productive capacity and that can be replicated in developing countries. The outcome of the Expert Meeting will be of direct relevance to the post-Doha programme and in particular to the WTO Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology that is examining steps to increase flows of technology to developing countries.

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[1] TD/B/COM.3/46.

7. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues note on financing technology for SMEs (TD/B/COM.3/EM.16/2). In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.16/2 "Improving the competitiveness of SMEs through enhancing productive capacity: financing technology"

Item 4: Adoption of the outcome of the Expert Meeting

8. In line with the recent guidelines adopted by the Trade and Development Board on the functioning of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, the Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chairperson, to prepare a final summary report after the conclusion of the meeting. The Chairperson's summary could identify policy options and recommendations for consideration by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. This report will then be submitted to the seventh session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development in February 2003.